

due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 553 on agreeing to Amendment No. 5 offered by Rep. ENGEL—Nay.

Roll Call Number 554 passage of H.R. 5719—Aye.

Roll Call Number 555 passage of H.R. 5037—Aye.

Roll Call Number 556 passage of H.R. 5798—Aye.

#### TRIBUTE TO PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA

### HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 26, 2016*

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Putnam County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Thursday, September 22, 2016.

The county sits on the southwestern edge of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named in honor of Israel Putnam, a hero in the French and Indian War and a general during the American Revolutionary War. The county was formed on April 1, 1822 from Owen and Vigo Counties and parts of the Wabash New Purchase. The county seat is located in Greencastle, home of DePauw University. The county is famous for the many surviving covered bridges that remain from a bygone era.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the ten Legacy Projects throughout the county are: the Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County, the Town of Bainbridge, DNR Nature Preserves, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, DePauw University, the Putnam County Bicentennial Celebrations Planning Group, and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Putnam County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

#### A CAREER SPENT CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 26, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Heilig of Duluth, Minnesota for her 41 years of service within the Duluth School District going above and beyond to create a positive learning environment for all students. I want to wish Stephanie the best as she celebrates her much deserved retirement.

While Principal of Myers-Wilkins Elementary, where a majority of students come from households with incomes below the poverty line, Principal Heilig worked tirelessly to engage families and give students the resources they need to learn. As students, teachers, administrators, and principals begin a new school year, one of the biggest issues facing schools is an achievement gap between students from different demographic groups. However, at Myers-Wilkins Elementary Principal Heilig's efforts created an environment where all students, regardless of their background, had an equal opportunity to learn.

She was very passionate about fostering a collaboration between the school and the community it serves by setting up after-school programs such as "family nights." During school she would use every available opportunity to give books to students while encouraging them to read. Additionally, she made a point to spend time in the halls of Myers-Wilkins talking to students to learn about their lives outside of school, their struggles and their achievements.

Thank you Stephanie for your 41 years of dedicated service and for going above and beyond what was required to give all students the best possible environment to learn. Please join me in wishing Stephanie Heilig the absolute best in her retirement.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE SYLVANIA SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 26, 2016*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a momentous occasion in the life of the Sylvania congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis. The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are celebrating their centennial year in 2016 and Saturday September 24, 2016, the Sisters and our community came together in a centennial celebration honoring the Franciscans' 100 years of service in our community.

It was Bishop Joseph Schrembs of the Toledo Catholic Diocese who initially requested religious sisters to teach the children of Polish immigrants in Toledo's Catholic Schools. On December 8, 1916, the Sylvania Franciscans were founded as a province of the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, Minnesota. The Sisters were stationed at St. Hedwig School in the North End of Toledo and a hub of Polish life in the city. After 89 acres of land was purchased in 1917 through the Rochester community, the Sisters were formally established in Sylvania, Ohio and were known as the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and were led by Mother Adelaide.

In the century that followed, the Sylvania Franciscans branched out from their original call to teach the city's Polish immigrant children to sharing the Franciscan presence in ministries spanning health care, housing, human services and pastoral care in addition to education. The Sisters' work is carried forth in eight states and the country of Haiti with 150 Sisters serving our human family. The Sisters' ministries are founded on the "core values of reverence, service, community, stewardship." The Franciscan Sisters are

called "like Francis of Assisi to live the Gospel in joyful servanthood among all people. The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, as messengers of peace, commit themselves to works that reverence human dignity, embrace the poor and marginalized, and respect the gift of all creation." Living Christ's message described in Matthew 25:40 "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis come to their centennial year as an integral part of our community. Their imprimatur is seen everywhere, from the beautiful elegiac campus in Sylvania, to the schools, caring services and hospitals in which they minister, and the Sylvania Franciscan Village which was established to integrate the Sisters' ministries.

In addition to traditional ministries, the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are leading efforts toward peace and justice and restoring nature. The Sisters note, "We believe that nature, the arts and culture, and the goodness around us nurture our souls and make us sensitive to Mother Earth and her peoples." It is that connection that truly defines the Sisters of St. Francis. A walk on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis is to behold the beauty of nature in all of its glory, to hear the silence and to feel God's presence everywhere.

From the barracks and strawberry patch Mother Adelaide and the 22 pioneering Sisters first established, the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis now feature many buildings in which the Sisters live and work, shrines, grottos, a prayer garden, the Portiuncula Chapel and adjacent Lourdes University. Its mission-style buildings showcase stunning mosaics and works of arts crafted by the Sisters themselves. It is truly an oasis of peace and tranquility.

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words." Throughout their one hundred year history the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis have lived this truth. Their presence and their good works demonstrate Christ's path and God's deep love. As the Sisters go forth toward their next centennial, let us be mindful of the history, but with a vision for the future. Our community gratefully and enthusiastically joins with them to celebrate the life of this vital and cherished congregation that is the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 26, 2016*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 542, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STILLWATER AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 26, 2016*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 25th Anniversary of